given patents for the medicinal use of a number of Indian Medicinal plants. As there is no effective mechanism to know about the applications made for patents in the patent offices of other countries, it is not possible to indicate the number of patents granted for medicinal use of plants including those used in Unani medicine in foreign countries.

Free vaccination to children

1932. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have proposed to give free vaccination of all types to all children, just as polio is given, or give any assistance to State Governments in this regard;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) Government of India is providing vaccine free of cost to the States for implementation of Universal Immunization Programme for prevention of vaccine preventable diseases namely childhood tuberculosis, diphtheria, pertussis, poliomyelitis, measles and neonatal tetanus. In addition, to eradicate polio, Government of India implements Pulse Polio Immunization Programme, under which State are provided:

(1) Oral Polio Vaccine in kind, and

(2) Operational expenses for implementing the programme.

National Maternity Benefit Scheme

1933. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether under National Maternity Benefit Scheme, an assistance of Rs. 500/- is being given to pregnant woman from BPL families for better nutrition; and

(b) if so, the number of beneficiaries in each State since its introduction, year-wise and State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Year-wise and State-wise estimated number of beneficiaries is at Statement.